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TWO NEW BIRDS FROM NORTHWESTERN TEXAS.

BY JAMES O. STEVENSON.

Investigations by the writer over the past few years in the Palo Duro Canyon region of the central Panhandle of Texas have led to the discovery of two apparently undescribed subspecies of birds.

Descriptions of these two new birds follow.

I am indebted to authorities of the United States National Museum and the Bureau of Biological Survey for the use of comparative material from their collections. I am also indebted to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of the Bureau of Biological Survey for assistance in preparation of this paper.

***Baeolophus atricristatus paloduro*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male (in fresh fall plumage); Palo Duro Canyon, Harold Ranch, Armstrong County (18 miles e. Canyon, Randall County), Texas; September 25, 1938; collected by J. O. Stevenson; orig. no. 1352.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Baeolophus atricristatus sennetti* Ridgway of central Texas, but tarsus longer; upper parts darker, less olivaceous (more grayish). To be differentiated from *B. a. atricristatus* by much greater size throughout and darker back, and the dull white forehead is invariably tinged with brown, the forehead color ranging from cream-buff to drab (Ridgway, 1913).

Measurements.—Male (ten specimens): wing, 73-79.5 (ave. 76.17) mm.; tail, 67.5-74.5 (ave. 70.3) mm.; exposed culmen, 10-11.5 (ave. 10.5) mm.; tarsus, 20-22.5 (ave. 21.4) mm. Female (six specimens): wing, 69-79 (ave. 75.5) mm.; tail, 62.5-73 (ave. 68.7) mm.; exposed culmen (5), 9.5-10.5 (ave. 9.9) mm.; tarsus, 20-22 (ave. 20.7) mm.

Range.—So far as is known, occurs only in Palo Duro and adjacent canyons of the Texas Panhandle that are drained by creeks tributary to the South Fork of Red River. This form is known to be resident in wooded canyons and "breaks" in Randall and Armstrong counties. Probably it is also resident in similar associations in neighboring counties of the Panhandle. It is interesting to note that the presence of the Black-crested

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Titmouse has not been previously recorded from the Texas Panhandle. *Sennetti* ranges northwest to Young County, Texas, some 200 miles south-east of *paloduro* territory. Whether the species occupies the intervening plains area is unknown.

Remarks.—Twenty-three adult and immature specimens of *paloduro* were collected by T. F. Smith and the writer in the months of February, May, August, September, and December in Randall and Armstrong Counties, Texas. Most of these, including the type, have been deposited in the Bureau of Biological Survey Collection, Washington, D. C.; the rest are in the collection of the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

***Richmondena cardinalis planicola*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult female, Palo Duro Canyon, Elkins Ranch, Randall County, Texas; December 26, 1936; collected by Tarleton F. Smith; orig. no. 1232.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Richmondena cardinalis canicauda* (Chapman) of central and southern Texas and Mexico but females differ in red of crest more extensive and more prominent, buff or brownish wash on breast more prominent and occasionally tinged with red, and longer wing and tail. Males are similar in coloration although the crest is somewhat duller; both sexes differ from *canicauda* in that the bill is shorter and more stubby, i. e., relatively thicker in proportion of depth to length.

Planicola differs from *Richmondena cardinalis magnirostris* (Bangs) as follows: in females, the capistrum is less extensive, the breast lighter with brownish wash seldom extending to the belly, back grayer and wing and tail longer. In males, the back is grayer, underparts lighter, capistrum less extensive, wing and tail longer. In both sexes, the bill is shorter and relatively thicker than in *magnirostris*.

Measurements.—Male (seven specimens): wing, 92–96.5 (ave. 93.8) mm.; tail, 99–108 (ave. 102.8) mm.; exposed culmen, 17.0–18.5 (ave. 17.7) mm.; height of bill, 16–17.5 (ave. 16.7) mm.; width of mandible, 12–13.5 (ave. 12.8) mm.; tarsus, 23.5–26 (ave. 24.5) mm. Female (seven specimens): wing, 88–96 (ave. 92.5) mm.; tail, 98–112.5 (ave. 103.1) mm.; exposed culmen (6), 16.5–18.0 (ave. 16.9) mm.; height of bill, 15.5–16.5 (ave. 16.2) mm.; width of mandible, 12–13 (ave. 12.5) mm.; tarsus, 23–26 (ave. 24.3) mm. Note: measurement of height of bill at base taken from base of exposed culmen to lowest posterior angle of the bare portion of the side of mandible. This is the method used by Ridgway in measuring finches for *The Birds of North and Middle America* (U. S. N. M., Bull. 50, part 1, 1901) as explained by Baldwin, Oberholser and Worley (*Sci. Publ. Cleve. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, vol. 2, 1931, p. 19). Width of mandible at base was taken in accordance with the method described by Baldwin, Oberholser, and Worley (*op. cit.*, p. 40).

Range.—Central region of the Texas Panhandle and east to western Oklahoma. Twenty adult and immature specimens were collected in wooded sections of Palo Duro Canyon in Randall and Armstrong Counties Texas.

These have been deposited in the Bureau of Biological Survey Collection, Washington, D. C.

The above measurements include two males from western Oklahoma that are referable to *planicola*. These were taken at Arnett and Mt. Scott Post Office, respectively.

Remarks.—Cardinals from the Texas Panhandle possess a combination of certain color characters of both *R. c. canicauda* and *R. c. magnirostris*, its nearest associates. It clearly differs in length of wing and tail and shape of the bill. Color differences are best brought out in females of *planicola*; differences in size are discernible in both sexes. In colors of certain parts there is a similarity to corresponding parts in either *canicauda* or *magnirostris*; in color of some parts, *planicola* is clearly intermediate.

It is possible that the range of *planicola* extends into southwestern Kansas. Specimens from that region have not been examined. *Planicola* probably intergrades with *magnirostris*, the Gulf Coast race that is resident in eastern Oklahoma, in the central section of that State.